

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 13548 221817Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 221746Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8171

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 13548

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, IS

SUBJECT: MEXICAN DESIRE FOR INCREASED DUTY FREE EXEMPTIONS

REF: STATE 259021

1. I WILL BE SEEING LOPEZ PORTILLO ON OTHER MATTERS TOMORROW MORNING (OCTOBER 23) AND WILL GIVE HIM HOPEFUL MESSAGE CONTAINED IN LAST PARAGRAPH OF REFTEL.

2. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER GARCIA ROBLES YESTERDAY TO SPEAK ALONG SAME LINES IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT HE ALSO HAD RAISED THIS VERY MATTER WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER ON LATTER'S VISIT TO MEXICO. GARCIA ROBLES, WHILE GRATIFIED TO HEAR THAT WE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT ON THIS MATTER, MADE ANOTHER VERY STRONG PUSH. HE OBSERVED THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO MOVE FORWARD POSITIVELY ON MATTERS RAISED WITH SECRETARY; HE REALIZED SOME OF THESE WERE COMPLICATED AND REQUIRED DOMESTIC NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN U.S. GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BUT IN HIS VIEW, THIS MADE IT ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT TO GIVE SOME VISIBLE SIGNAL THAT THE U.S. WAS INTERESTED IN SOME FORM OF SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MEXICO. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ANY U.S. LEGISLATION WOULD PROBABLY MAKE THE DUTY FREE INCREASE EXEMPTION ACROSS-THE-BOARD TO ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD AND WHILE HE RECOGNIZED THAT MEXICO, EVEN UNDER THIS FORMULA WOULD BE A PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY, HE WAS CONCERNED THAT AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD WORLD-WIDE INCREASE

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MIGHT ENCOUNTER STRONGER OPPOSITION WITHIN THE USG AND HOPED

WE WOULD KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL EXEMPTION FOR MEXICO SHOULD IT PROVE IMPOSSIBLE TO DO IT ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS. WHEN I MURMURED SOMETHING TO THE FACT THAT SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR ONE COUNTRY MIGHT CREATE LEGAL DIFFICULTIES WITH GATT AND OTHERWISE, THE MINISTER MAINTAINED THAT FRONTIER COUNTRIES WERE LEGALLY ENTITLED TO SPECIAL TREATMENT AND SUGGESTED THAT CANADA AS WELL AS MEXICO MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN THIS CATEGORY AND GIVEN THE SAME SPECIAL TREATMENT. THE MINISTER OBSERVED THAT EVEN BY RAISING THE DUTY FREE EXEMPTION TO 200 DOLLARS WE WOULD BE MERELY RESTORING THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE 100 DOLLAR EXEMPTION WHICH WAS FIXED IN PRE-INFLATION 1964.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DUTY FREE ENTRY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO13548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760397-1195
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761024/aaaaaujf.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 259021
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEXICAN DESIRE FOR INCREASED DUTY FREE EXEMPTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MX, IS, (GARCIA ROBLES, ALFONSO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006